the Law Commission's recommendations and suggested that variations can be made for different jurisdictions on the basis of pendency, rate of disposal and other relevant factors in consultation with the judiciary.

The Supreme Court in its judgement dated 21.3.2002 in W.P. (Civil) No. 1022/89. All India Judges Association *Vs.* Union of India & others has suggested that the increase in the judge strength to 50 judges per 10 lakh people should be effected and implemented with the filling of the posts in a phased manner to be determined and directed by the Union Ministry of Law, but this process should be completed and the increased vacancies and posts filled within a period of five years from today.

Merging of companies

†4159. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of companies of corporate sector finally merged during the last three years;

(b) the details of assets and liabilities of the companies they merged into; and

(c) the details of the companies proposed and under consideration for merger?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shortage of Judges in High Courts

4160. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any shortage of judges in the High Courts of Tamil Nadu and other States due to which a large number of cases are pending; and

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating to fill up such posts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) As on May 2, 2002, against the approved Judge strength of 647 (including 43 new posts) of the High Courts, there were 492 Judges in position leaving 155 posts vacant. A statement showing the number of vacancies in each High Court is annexed. (*See* below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) After the Supreme Court Judgement of October 6, 1993 in the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record & Anr. *Vs.* Union of India, read with the Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the entire process of initiation of proposal for appointment of a Judge of a High Court lies with the Chief Justice of that High Court. The Government has, however, been requesting the Chief Justices of the High Courts, Chief Ministers and the Governors of the States, from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up of the present and anticipated vacancies. They were requested last on March 15, 2002 to make recommendation for filling up the vacancies expeditiously.

Number of vacancies in high court

Position as on 02.05.2002

Sl. No.	High Court	Approved Strength	Actual Strength	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad	95	51	44
2.	Andhra Pradesh	39	32	7
3.	Bombay	60	53	7
4.	Calcutta	50	42	8
5.	Chhattisgarh	6	3	3
6.	Delhi	33	30	3
7.	Gauhati	19	15	4
8.	Gujarat	42	33	9
9.	Himachal Pradesh	8	7	1
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	8	6
11.	Jharkhand	12	10	2
12.	Karnataka	40	33	7
13.	Kerala	29	24	5
14.	Madhya Pradesh	29	26	3
15.	Madras	42	31	11
16.	Orissa	16	14	2
17.	Patna	31	23	8
18.	Punjab and Haryana	40	26	14
19.	Rajasthan	32	27	5
20.	Sikkim	3	1	2
21.	Uttaranchal	7	3	4
	Total	**647**	**492**	**155**